

October 4, 2018



Dear :

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (File # NR-148-2017)

On September 20, 2018, the Department of Natural Resources received your request for access to the following records/information:

Please provide a copy of the following briefing note: Removal of temporary infrastructure by NL Hydro.

I am pleased to inform you that a decision has been made by the Department of Natural Resources, confirmed by the Deputy Minister, to provide access to the requested record. The record is attached.

As set out in section 42 of the Act you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the department's decision to provide access to the requested information. A request to the Commissioner must be made in writing within 15 business days of the date of this letter or within a longer period that may be allowed by the Commissioner. Your request should identify your concerns with the department's response and why you are requesting a review.

The request for review may be addressed to the Information and Privacy Commissioner is as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
2 Canada Drive

P.O. Box 13004, Stn. A
St. John's, NL. A1B 3V8

Telephone: (709) 729-6309
Toll-Free: 1-877-729-6309
Facsimile: (709) 729-6500

Pursuant to section 52 of the Act, you may also appeal directly to the Supreme Court Trial Division within 15 business days after receiving the department's decision.

Please be advised that responsive records will be published following a 72 hour period after the response is sent electronically to you or five business days in the case where records are mailed to you. It is the goal to have the responsive records posted to the Completed Access to Information Requests website within one business day following the applicable period of time. Please note that requests for personal information will not be posted online.

For further details about how an access to information request is processed, please refer to the Access to Information Policy and Procedures Manual at <http://www.atipp.gov.nl.ca/info/index.html>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 709-729-0463 or rhynes@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rod Hynes".

Rod Hynes
ATIPP Coordinator

Information Note
Department of Natural Resources

Title: Removal of Temporary Infrastructure by Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro

Issue: To provide an update on public reaction to removal of temporary access infrastructure built to support a transmission line project by Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (NLH).

Background and Current Status:

- Construction of NLH's recently completed 230 kilovolt 188 kilometer transmission line (referred to as TL267) connecting the Bay d'Espoir and Western Avalon terminal stations, required temporary access infrastructure, such as roads bridges and culverts.
- The project's Environmental Assessment required decommissioning of some temporary structures, and more thorough remediation of certain sections of the access road. NLH advises that public safety also demands removal of the temporary infrastructure, as it was not constructed to be permanent, and thus would not stand up to prolonged usage.
- NLH advises it will maintain only the structures required to provide access to maintain the transmission line. Additionally, Nalcor advises that it has completed an assessment of all water crossings, and has determined that 41 culverts along the 200 km road need to be removed due to safety, quality, and likelihood of washout.
- Together, these considerations create a situation where some elements of the infrastructure will be removed while other elements will stay in place, and where some elements will be removed sooner than others. An overview of the installed infrastructure that is set to be removed is attached as Annex 1.
- The pending removal of this infrastructure has caused concern and disappointment among members of the public that have come to use the temporary access road for recreational purposes and cabin access. NLH advises that while removal of infrastructure will reduce overall accessibility, it will still remain usable for all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles.

Analysis:

- Maintaining this infrastructure would require certain components such as bridges and culverts to be upgraded to permanent structures, and continued maintenance to allow safe vehicle access.
- Requirements to remove the infrastructure stemming from the Environmental Assessment aside, NLH advises the upgrades referenced above are not required to maintain the transmission line. Therefore the costs of such upgrades and maintenance very likely would not be permitted to be captured in electricity rates by the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities, even if NLH wished to keep the infrastructure in place.

Action Being Taken:

- Senior NLH ~~staff~~ staff has directly contacted at least one individual who has voiced concerns. NLH has committed to share a detailed list of the plans for an area that is of particular concern to that individual. NLH also offered to change the works schedule, allowing certain culverts to remain in place, in turn allowing the individual to complete work at his cabin.

- NLH plans to issue a public statement on the issue.

Prepared by/Approved by: Y. Khan / M. Janes / C. Snook/J. Cowan

Ministerial Approval: Received from Hon. Siobhan Coady

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August 9, 2018

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Annex 1: TL267 Access Infrastructure

Location	Culverts Installed	Culverts to be Removed	Timber Pads/Bridges Installed	Timber Pads/Bridges to be Removed	Total Crossings	Total Crossings to be Removed
Total Project (188km)	170	41	111	47	281	88
North Harbour Road to North Harbour River (1.4km)	3	1	0	0	3	1
Come by Chance River to North Harbour River (7.8km)	12	3	1	0	13	3